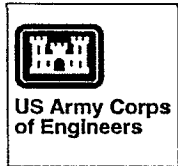




CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM



ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM PROGRAMMATIC EIS/EIR

On March 16, 1998, a copy of the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (Programmatic EIS/EIR) for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program was released for public review and comment. Written comments are due by June 1, 1998. Public comments can also be submitted orally at one of the twelve public hearings that will be held at various locations around the state prior to the close of the public comment period.

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is a unique cooperative effort by fifteen state and federal agencies with regulatory and management responsibilities in the San Francisco Bay-Sacramento/San Joaquin River Bay-Delta. The mission of the Program is to develop a long-term plan to restore ecosystem health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta system. The objective of this collaborative planning process is to identify comprehensive solutions to the problems of ecosystem quality, water supply reliability, water quality, and Delta levee and channel integrity.

The Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR is a joint product of the efforts of each of the CALFED participating agencies, and represents a major step in the process toward collectively achieving CALFED's objective. It identifies twelve alternative options to achieve this objective and analyzes the environmental impacts of proceeding under each of these alternatives. Each of these alternatives includes core programs which address issues of ecosystem restoration, water use efficiency, water quality, Delta levee and channel integrity, water transfers, and watershed management coordination, as well as a range of storage and conveyance options. No decision has yet been made on a preferred alternative, and we encourage your participation in helping us shape this choice as part of the Final Programmatic EIS/EIR. Many issues that have been identified and evaluated in the Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR need further study and discussion, and your comments will contribute to our ability to make an informed and workable decision. In addition to the public hearings being held between April 21, 1998 and May 14, 1998, CALFED will continue to conduct workshops and public meetings to facilitate public involvement as we progress toward the final plan.

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Natural Resources Conservation Service
National Marine Fisheries Service

U.S. Forest Service
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Geological Survey
Western Area Power Administration

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The primary purpose of the Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR is to inform decision-makers and the public about the impacts the various alternatives could have on both the human and the natural environment and to evaluate how well the alternatives meet the Program purposes. Because the Program is a long-term plan for the Bay-Delta ecosystem, the Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR is a program-level planning document, focusing on the interrelated long-term and cumulative consequences of various alternatives. Subsequent environmental review for the project specific actions involved in implementation of the Program will follow the approval of the Final Programmatic EIS/EIR.

An overview of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, its purposes, the alternatives analyzed in the Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR, and how we plan to proceed with the Program is included in the Phase II Interim Report. An Executive Summary of the Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR is also available for review.

To receive a copy of the Executive Summary, Phase II Interim Report or the complete Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR, including 11 appendices, send a written request to the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155, Sacramento, CA 95814, or call (800) 900-3587. Public comments on the Programmatic EIS/EIR should be submitted in writing before June 1, 1998 to the CALFED Bay-Delta Program at the same address, Attention: Rick Breitenbach. If you would like more information on the dates and locations of the public hearings, or a list of the libraries around the state where copies of the complete Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR are available for review, please contact CALFED at the above address or telephone number.